RCAS NEWS

**NEED HELP?
HAVE QUESTIONS?
WANT TRAINING?**

Contact a service desk

for assistance:

Army National Guard

1-844-722-2373 (toll free)

United States Army Reserve

1-844-770-3737 (toll free)

RCAS/FMS PL PARTICIPATES ON ACT-IAC PANEL

Ms. Sammi Foong, far right, speaks to ACT-IAC attendees about how RCAS uses Agile as an approach to software sustainment. Photo credit: Mr. Saj George, RCAS Deputy Product Lead.

On June 27, Ms. Sammi S. Foong, Product Lead (PL), Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS)/Force Management System (FMS) participated in a panel discussion on Defense Program Needs during an American Council for Technology and Industry Advisory Council (ACT-IAC) Small Business Alliance event. The event was held at the Association of the United States Army Conference Center in Arlington, Virginia. Leaders from Defense agencies engaged in discussions addressing defense technologies and techniques for the integration of innovation and modernization in mission systems. The Discussion provided small business attendees better clarity on how they can partner with the Defense industry to promote collaboration and dialogue between Industry and Government. The interactive seminar featured a keynote speaker, panel discussions, and "Questions and Answers" from the attendees. During the panel discussion, Ms. Foong discussed how RCAS is using Agile as an iterative process, three times

more likely to succeed than the traditional waterfall (sequential approach) used in the past, to improve RCAS software and product release quality, delivery and sustainment.

Ms. Foong further elaborated that stakeholder buy-in, participation, partnership and transparency, the right tools, processes, people and governance are key to the success of RCAS in support of its Army National Guard (ARNG) and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) customers.

Ms. Foong's participation on the ACT-IAC panel demonstrates how RCAS continues to serve our Soldiers and the Nation.

RCAS
Reserve Component Automation Systems

Serving the Soldier... Serving the Nation

It is hard for me to believe that it has been over four months since I was introduced as your Product Lead – it has been an incredible personal experience for me to expand my perspectives from the Army Force Management world to the details of directly serving the individual Soldiers of the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. This personal observation became extremely apparent to me during my recent participation in a panel discussion hosted by the American Council for Technology and Industry Advisory Council. This forum addresses the multiple needs of our defense community focusing on techniques for innovation and improving integration.

I also have had a great introduction to our RCAS stakeholders both at the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC), as well as a visit to a few organizations in the field. I am looking forward to both planning and participating in my second meeting with our RCAS "Board of Directors" – aka Requirements Control Board (RCB), which will convene again in October. Our team continues to receive outstanding support in your timely response to our data calls and confirmation of your system requirements. Your response to our new Product Refresh tool, "RCAS MarketPlace", has been outstanding – another testament to your continued excellent collaboration, participation and communication – all critical to our capability to improve our service to you.

I sincerely thank you for all you do for our Soldiers, their families and for your interest in what our team is doing – and especially appreciate you taking the time to read and browse this edition of "RCAS News". I pledge to you that together we will make RCAS all it can be -- it is my honor to serve you.

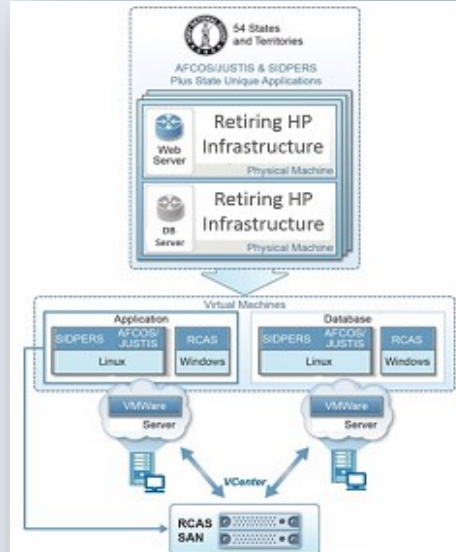# RCAS EXPANDS THE USE OF ITS ENTERPRISE STORAGE & BACKUP SOLUTION

The RCAS Product Office recently completed the two-phased process of refreshing and modernizing the RCAS server, storage and backup solution infrastructure at all Army National Guard (ARNG) sites.

In May 2015, Phase 1 provided servers that drive the virtual platform, allow sites to expand hosting capabilities beyond RCAS, and allow for systems consolidation; this increased productivity and cost reduction.

In April 2017, Phase 2 of the infrastructure refresh provided the modernization and expansion of storage and backup solutions at all ARNG sites.

Many sites have already taken advantage of the increased storage and replication capabilities of the new RCAS solution for their Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

In September 2017, the Information Management Architecture (IMA) program will begin its migration of the 54 instances of the Automated Fund Control Order System (AFCOS) / Joint Uniform Military Pay System

Depiction of outdated server based AFCOS / JUSTIS and SIDPERS applications migrated to the new RCAS enterprise platform.

Standard Terminal Input System (JUSTIS) and the Standard Installation and Division Personnel System (SIDPERS) applications, from the retiring Hewlett-Packard (HP) Itanium infrastructure, to the modernized RCAS platform. The new RCAS platform will provide significant savings for the ARNG by reducing hardware and power costs at each site, simplify administrative support and reduce the hardware footprint.

This is possible due to the continued cooperation and foresight of the RCAS Product Office and the ARNG Data Processing Advisory Committee (DPAC) working together to gather functional requirements and design the infrastructure to better meet the needs of our stakeholders.

For more information on the RCAS Storage and Backup Solution Refresh, please contact Ms. Angela Green-Mack, RCAS, Chief, Technical Management Division by phone at 703-806-3089 or by email at angela.d.green-mack.civ@mail.mil.

OCAR HQS TO HOST OCTOBER RCB

The Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR) will host the initial FY18 Requirements Control Board (RCB) meeting on 19 October 2017 at their headquarters building at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. It is most appropriate that this important customer meeting is again being hosted at this exceptional facility, as this building is named and dedicated in honor of President Harry S. Truman, whose forty-one year military career included service in both the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. This state-of-the-art organizational headquarters accommodates the Chief, Army Reserve (CAR) and primary support staff.

Planning continues for this first meeting of FY18, with the theme of October's RCB "Embracing

RCAS Change." Agenda considerations include a review of action items from the April 2017 meeting, a discussion of the revised RCB Charter and requirements prioritization process, RCAS Product Office updates on both current and future program challenges, and other items as recommended by the technical and functional leaders from each component.

For RCB information the RCAS Product Office Points of Contact are Mr. Walter Farrell, Requirements Manager, by phone at 703-806-3414 or email at walter.m.farrell.civ@mail.mil, or Ms. Rita Bartholomew, Requirements Management Support, by phone at 703-806-3119 or by email at rita.g.bartholomew.ctr@mail.mil.

MEET YOUR NEW RCAS ISSM

MR. JUSTIN CHAE

Mr. Chae started in January 2017 as the program's Information Systems Security Manager (ISSM) where he is responsible for leading the RCAS cybersecurity mission. Justin previously worked at the Department of the Navy with SPAWAR as an Information Technology Specialist.

Justin has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Sciences and Technology from Penn State University. After graduation, he supported various Government agencies as a contractor, GIS analyst, and UAS site lead. As a DoD contractor, Justin deployed several times to Afghanistan and Africa working in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Justin also commissioned from Penn State ROTC into the Pennsylvania ARNG. Justin initially served as an Infantry Officer in the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team and deployed as an Infantry Stryker Platoon Leader in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Justin later transferred into the Military Intelligence Corps where he eventually deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel as a Brigade Plans Officer. Today, Justin continues to serve the PA ARNG as Battalion S2.

Justin enjoys CrossFit and Golf and supports the "Bike to the Beach" 100-mile bike ride charity in support of Autism Speaks.

RCAS RELEASE 7.1.3 ARRIVES WITH A BANG

RCAS Release 7.1.3 deployed 10 July 2017. The following enhancements along with other fixes and updates are included:

The RCASWeb homepage has a new look and feel. These changes should make loading RCAS more streamlined. Other enhancements include changes to the Job History Screen and Health Check report.

- **FA — Force Authorization:** The Force Management application includes changes to the Defense Readiness Reporting System-Army (DRRS-A) Information Exchange and improved performance of the Force Management application.

- **MPDV — Mobilization Planning Data Viewer:** Continues to enhance the capabilities of the Multi-Conference Joint Assessment (MCJA) which is used by the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) to track units as they process through MCJAs. This includes the automation of the MCJA form, the ability for Level 1 administrators to un-archive a Battle Roster and the ability to track Primary Military Occupational Specialty (PMOS) on reports.

- **SOH — Safety and Occupational Health Application:** Completed updates to the Aviation Resources Management System (ARMS) Checklist. Also included is the ability to identify a previously uncorrected hazard during inspections. Other enhancements include a statement of understanding on sign-in rosters for training and improvements to the archiving of Soldiers and Civilians.

RCAS Release 7.1.3 — July 2017

- **PER — Personnel:** The Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (iPERMS) Data-At-Rest implementation is complete for the Personnel applications along with enhancements to the Standard Installation/Division Personnel System (SIDPERS) Information Exchange. The latter enhancement aligns with the future subsumption of SIDPERS by the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army (IPPS-A) as well as with the subsumption of RCAS Personnel applications: Military Personnel Office (MilPO) Orders and Unit Personnel System/Command Management System (UPS/CMS) in FY18. The Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) application is tentatively schedule for subsumption in FY20.

For more information on any RCAS Release, please contact Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, RCAS Application Management Division by phone at 703-806-3071 or by email at jim.n.cook.civ@mail.mil.

THINKING OUT OF THE BOX — WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You may know what RCAS applications are designed to do, but did you know that they can be used for so much more? Some very creative Soldiers in both the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve are thinking out of the box when it comes to using RCAS applications.

We would like to hear from you on any creative ways that you, your Soldiers and your units are using RCAS functionality or your ideas for improvement. Please feel free to contact Mr. Pete Van Schagen, RCAS Communications Support, 703-806-3282 or e-mail: peter.g.vanschagen.ctr@mail.mil with any ideas or thoughts you may have.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! TOWN HALL MEETING

The quarterly Reserve Component Automation Systems/ Information Management Architecture (RCAS/IMA) Town Hall was held Wednesday, 21 June 2017. Mr. Max Dunn, RCAS Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) and Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Product Owner, welcomed participants and began with administrative comments.

Mr. Dunn announced that RCAS Release 7.1.5, will now be deployed January 2018. The change in the release is due to the planned Integrated Personnel/Pay System-Army (IPPS-A) subsumption of the RCAS Personnel applications in FY18.

Some States reported issues in obtaining the application signature for HTTPS communication. It was discovered that this is just an open firewall issue, and States having this issue should open a support ticket with the Army National Guard Help Desk at 844-722-2373 or NGB-Helpdesk@mail.mil.

A question arose if States could install only those applications utilized by their end users. This is not feasible on the RCAS side. Each RCAS Product Family works on Engineering Change Proposals, Software Defects, and employs new security as a complete package; software "Builds" include the complete suite of applications and testing is done to ensure all applications work together and are able to draw from one integrated database.

Discussion continued regarding the shutdown of Forge.mil since the site began charging for the storage of software release projects. A question arose about a National Guard site being used instead; however, States were unsure if efforts to use the new site are still ongoing. It was suggested that States mention this to their Data Processing Advisory Committee (DPAC) representative to take forward to the DPAC.

The rest of the Town Hall contained information regarding the upcoming RCAS Database Operating System transition from Windows Server 2012 R2 to Red Hat Enterprise Linux and the Army Golden Master (AGM) Server 2016 pilot which began last month.

Finally, the IMA team briefed the audience on upcoming Standard Installation/Division Personnel System (SIDPERS) releases and updates on SIDPERS subsumption by IPPS-A.

The next RCAS Town Hall is scheduled for 14 September 2017. If you are interested in attending please contact Ms. Rita Bartholomew at 703-806–3119 or by email at rita.g.bartholomew.ctr@mail.mil.

RCAS PRODUCT/INFRASTRUCTURE REFRESH UNDERWAY

The FY17 RCAS Product/Infrastructure Refresh is in full swing for all Army National Guard (ARNG) States, Territories, District of Columbia, the ARNG Professional Education Center (PEC), and the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC). Requirements gathering began earlier this month with input due mid-July. For the first time in RCAS history, the ARNG Product/Infrastructure Refresh will be conducted via the new automated MarketPlace which allows States to login using a Common Access Card (CAC) and submit their requirements, validate their Build Order of Materials (BOMs), and submit Justification Letters, signed Defense Department (DD) Form 250s and Department of the Army (DA) Form 1687s among other tasks. RCAS looks forward to working with both the ARNG and USARC communities to take full advantage of the MarketPlace capabilities in the future.
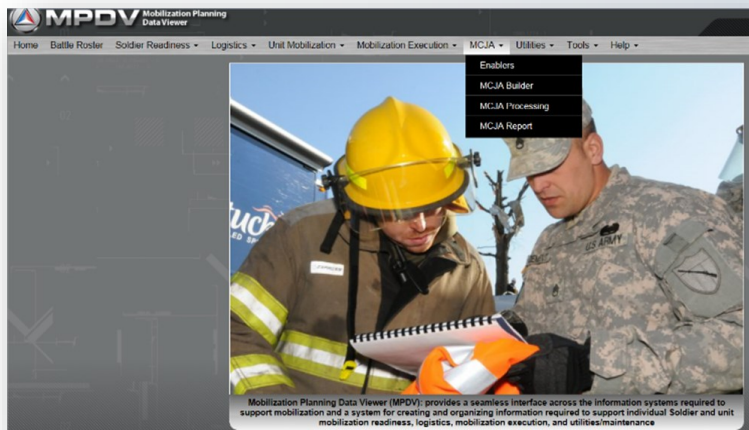
For more information about the RCAS Product Refresh effort, please contact Mr. Walter Farrell, Requirements Manager, by phone at 703-806-3414 or email at walter.m.farrell.civ@mail.mil, or Ms. Rita Bartholomew, Requirements Management Support, by phone at 703-806-3119 or by email at rita.g.bartholomew.ctr@mail.mil.

RCAS Customer Engagement Portal— MarketPlace — Now Active and Ready for your Refresh Orders.

RCAS MPDV AUTOMATES MCJA UNIT CHECK-IN AND TRACKING

Screen shot of the MPDV MCJA Module for the USAR.

Mobilization Readiness is key to ensuring mobilizing units and Soldiers are prepared for deployment, and all readiness details are mission critical. This is why the Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve hold Multi-Component Joint Assessments (MCJAs) on a quarterly basis that allow Soldiers to meet with other Soldiers and Mobilization Planners who validate their training requirements prior to mobilization. Soldiers get a "bird's eye" view of what their mission may look like along with the challenges they may encounter. Having a preview of what is to come in Theater enables Soldiers to increase their readiness. The MCJA also provides an opportunity for Operational, Functional, Training, and Supporting Commands' assigned Allocated Forces to synchronize pre and post mobilization training plans and validate leadership/ command teams in order to resolve deployment readiness issues and obtain approval from their leadership and First Army on their proposed final plan.

With approximately 50 – 100 units attending an MCJA event, administrators are challenged with the manual paper process used to ensure deploying units are accomplishing key required tasks. In the hopes of eliminating this problem, the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) submitted an Engineering Change Proposal to the RCAS Product Office asking for an enhancement to the MPDV Soldier Readiness module that would allow USARC Headquarters Mobilization Planners to track units attending the MCJA and to ensure all tasks are completed at the conference.

The RCAS Product Office accommodated the USARC's request by enhancing the MPDV application to include an MCJA module that permits Mobilization Planners to track deploying units by their deploying unit manning, equipping and training requirements through the various stations at an MCJA. At the conclusion of an MCJA, Mobilization Planners can check a deploying unit out of the event as Complete. An Administrator builds and manages the MCJA, adding the deploying unit manning and unit identification codes in attendance, the stations involved, along with Enabler stations, and completes the process with a standard set of check-out questions. The Administrator may also create Battle Rosters from within the MPDV MCJA Builder if necessary.

Master Sergeant Eugene Latsch, Jr., an Operation Readiness Non-Commissioned Officer from the USARC G-33 office had this to say about the MPDV MCJA Module: "Since we have been moving forward with going automated with the MCJA checklist, we are able to monitor the deployable units while they are moving thru the different stations by using MPDV to include anyone who may be back in the rear covering down. They can also see how many units attended the MCJA and how many are approved for CONUS Replacement Center (CRC). This eliminates the unit from missing any of the important steps before deploying."

In addition to providing MCJA support, the RCAS MPDV Team can assist with your next SRP event using this time-saving MPDV tool. RCAS offers MPDV Leadership Workshops, briefings and SRP support for all levels of command. This support is fully funded by RCAS so there is no cost to the field.

Want to know more about MPDV and what it can do for you? Go to the RCAS homepage on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) at https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093. There you will have access to the latest MPDV information, briefings, contacts, the MPDV schedule of events and much more.

To request MPDV SRP support or find out more about the MPDV MCJA module, contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE/EVENT SUPPORT

RCAS is exhibiting and/or providing support at the following events:

Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Multi-Component Joint Assessment (MCJA) and SRP Support Events
Multi-Component JA Support—Fort Bliss, Texas FY17, 14-17 Aug 2017
MPDV SRP Support—Mississippi ARNG—Camp Shelby, Mississippi—14-18 Sep 2017
MPDV SRP Support MS ARNG—Camp Shelby, MS—21-25 Sep 2017

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops or conference events, visit the RCAS area for a software demonstration and a discussion of RCAS products and services. The RCAS Team is available to provide briefings and answer RCAS related questions at various ARNG and USAR events.

To request RCAS participation at your next conference or workshop event, contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.

RCAS TRAINING CORNER

Mobilization Assist – When Units are ready to mobilize, the RCAS Training Team is prepared to support. The RCAS MPDV application is the system of record for compliance with Forces Command (FORSCOM) Regulation 500-3-3, FORSCOM Mobilization and Deployment Planning System (FORMDEPS) and Reserve Component Unit Commander's Handbook (RCUCH). Based on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between FORSCOM and RCAS, MPDV is the only authorized application used to upload DA Form 7425 Soldier Readiness data to the Deployment and Reconstitution Tracking Software (DARTS) system. Within DARTS, the data from the Soldier Readiness and Deployment Checklist, which is completed during Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) events, verifies Soldier readiness for mobilization and initiates the Soldier for active duty payroll. With such an important role in mobilization readiness, providing MPDV training is a top priority for RCAS.

76 soldiers of the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) attending a briefing during the SRP event. Photo credit: Steve Longoria, RCAS Application Instructor.

Steve Longoria, RCAS Application Instructor, conducting a three day in-person MPDV training event in Ogden, UT. Photo credit: CPT Christopher Ecker, S1, 307th Medical Brigade.

This spring, RCAS Instructor Mr. Steve Longoria, traveled to Ogden, Utah to train 27 Army Reserve service members on MPDV.

RCAS Training Team support does not end on the last day of class. Your MPDV instructor can also assist with your SRP. In fact, we can come to you! After class in Ogden, Mr. Longoria remained onsite throughout the weekend to help run the SRP event for 76 Soldiers from the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) out of Salt Lake City, UT. The SRP event took place at Fort Douglas, UT and included Soldiers from Kansas, Georgia, California, and Florida.

The SRP was setup for efficient personnel processing, enabling Soldiers to qualify for deployment by checking-in and checking-out of each station at a single location. The Medical phase was conducted on Saturday, and the Administrative phase took place on Sunday. The event was a success for the Soldiers and RCAS was delighted to serve the Soldiers who serve our nation!

When you're getting ready to mobilize, keep in mind that the RCAS Training Team offers onsite courses for 10-24 students, where and when needed. If your unit only needs training for a few soldiers, virtual courses can be held for smaller groups.

To schedule training for your organization, contact Mr. Robert G. Medley, RCAS Training Coordinator, at 703-806-3163, Robert.G.Medley.civ@mail.mil, or contact Ms. Catherine Kent, RCAS Training Manager, at 703-434-6231, Catherine.Kent@caci.com. Alternatively, you can submit a "Request for RCAS Training – APPLICATION NAME" helpdesk ticket through the NGB Helpdesk at NGB-HelpDesk@mail.mil, or 844-722-2373. For the USAR, contact your Major Subordinate Command Point of Contact for RCAS application training.

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We are on the web at
https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093

Want to provide input to RCAS News or be added to the distribution list, contact Mr. Robert G. Medley at robert.g.medley.civ@mail.mil.
Reserve Component Automation Systems, ATTN: RCAS, 6010 6th Street, Building 1465B, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060

Integrated Web Based Software Applications / Distributed Learning Program Support / Information Technology Infrastructure Integration and Refresh / Requirements Management